

Amendment to the Specification

Please replace the first paragraph beginning on page 7 with the following amended paragraph:

In a preferred assignment protocol, LAN equipment manufacturers assign MAC addresses to LAN switches. Thus, as shown, LEM1 110 assigns LEM1R addresses to LEM 1 switch 115 which may be applied internally and externally. Similarly, LEM2 120 assigns LEM2R addresses to LEM2 switch 125 which may be applied internally and externally. However, in an important feature of the invention, LEM1 110 and LEM2 120 ~~[[125]]~~ also assign ISR addresses to their respective switches 115 and 125 solely for internal application. The ISR addresses assigned by LEM1 110 and LEM2 120 to their respective switches 115 and 125 are from the shared ISR address range within MAC address domain 10 100 and, therefore, may (but do not necessarily) include one or more identical addresses.